



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 17, 1994

Mr. Alan Wilson
Senior Reclamation Engineer
Hecla Mining Company
6500 Mineral Drive
Box C-8000
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 838154-1931

Re: Escalante Tailings Impoundment, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your telefaxed letter received February 8, 1994, regarding Hecla's response to our February 2, 1994 conditional tentative approval of the Escalante Tailings Pond Reclamation Plan, Rev. 2, dated January 13, 1994. Your letter indicated that Hecla agreed to all clarifications and conditions except for Item 2, which addressed permanent sealing of the underdrain system. You indicated that Hecla was willing to allow the underdrain system to free drain for a 2 year period after cap implementation before permanently sealing the underdrain.

The Division has provided copies of your response to the BLM and state DWQ. We have contacted both agencies subsequent to their receipt of your letter and have reached the following decision on this matter. We are in agreement to leave the underdrain open for the proposed 2 year period; however, we will require periodic discharge measurements of the underdrain solutions. We suggest recording monthly measurements that can be graphed to show any trends that may be occurring over time. Any underdrain discharge records that may have been obtained since mine/mill closure are also requested. We will defer making a final decision on sealing the underdrain until we have an opportunity to review the discharge records at the end of the two year monitoring period.



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It is our understanding that Hecla will be awarding its impoundment reclamation contract next week. Please let us know when the reclamation project is scheduled to begin. We look forward to the receipt of your revised Reclamation Contract and surety in the near future. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Wayne Hedberg".

D. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb
cc: Larry Mize, DWQ
Arthur Tait, BLM, Beaver River RA
Lowell Braxton
M021004.tlg